

N84-24922



Technical Memorandum 86105

CALCULATIONS OF
ATMOSPHERIC
TRANSMITTANCE IN THE
11 μ M WINDOW FOR
ESTIMATING SKIN
TEMPERATURE FROM VISSR
INFRARED BRIGHTNESS
TEMPERATURES

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May 4, 1984

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ABSTRACT

An algorithm is presented for calculating the atmospheric transmittance in the 10 to 20 μm spectral band from a known temperature and dewpoint profile, and then using this transmittance to estimate the surface (skin) temperature from a VISSR observation in the 11 μm window. Parameterizations are drawn from the literature for computing the molecular absorption due to the water vapor continuum, water vapor lines, and carbon dioxide lines. FORTRAN code is documented for this application, and the sensitivity of the derived skin temperature to variations in the model's parameters is calculated. VISSR calibration uncertainties are identified as the largest potential source of error.

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Section 1

INTRODUCTION

A common procedure for estimating the underlying skin temperature from an infrared window observation is to use a radiation transfer correction for the intervening atmosphere. The experience of previous workers with this physical inversion technique has not been encouraging (Weinreb and Fleming, 1974; Aoki and Inoue, 1982). Sea surface temperatures (SST) are usually a few degrees less than the satellite-derived ones, and one cannot distinguish between problems due to thin clouds, emittance uncertainties, faulty transmittance estimates, and calibration errors. Operationally, sea surface temperatures are derived empirically at low space-time resolution by using regression between multispectral satellite and ground truth observations (Strong and McClain, 1984). Experimentally, multi-channel satellite data have been used with physical models to derive mesoscale gradients and relative changes in either skin temperature (Zandlo et al., 1982) or low-level moisture (Chesters et al., 1983), over both land and sea. Estimates based upon the VISSR 11 μm window alone are limited by calibration uncertainties in the geosynchronous imagery, and by the ambiguity in determining whether radiance arises from the surface or the atmosphere. Nevertheless, local skin temperature gradients and short-term changes should be measureable with fair relative accuracy from VISSR infrared data by using a physical model for the radiation transfer properties of the overlying atmosphere, with absolute accuracy provided by "tuning" to ground truth.

Exact molecular absorption calculations for the transmittance through the atmosphere are too computationally intensive for practical applications. Several approximations for the water vapor continuum, water vapor lines, and carbon dioxide lines have been published which provide accuracy better than $\pm 1\%$ (Roberts et al., 1976; McMillin et al., 1976, 1977, 1979 and 1980; Aoki, 1979 and 1980; Chou, 1981; Weinreb et al., 1980 and 1981). The absorption models by Roberts et al. (1976) and Aoki (1980) are adopted because they have an economical formulation and published values for all of the coefficients required within 11 μm window. Roberts et al. (1976) calculate the water vapor continuum absorption with separate terms for water vapor concentration, temperature, and wavenumber. Aoki (1980) calculates the water vapor and carbon dioxide line absorption with a semi-random band approximation whose intertwined pressure- and temperature-dependence is calculated from eight coefficients which are fitted at 50 cm^{-1} spectral intervals to line-by-line molecular absorption spectra. Aoki's model accounts for the variance in the line spacings, the line intensity distribution, and the contribution made by lines lying outside of the interval.

This report presents an algorithm for calculating the atmospheric transmittance in the 10 to 20 μm spectral band from a known temperature and dewpoint profile, and then using this transmittance to estimate the surface (skin) temperature from a VISSR observation in the 11 μm window. Section 2 outlines the abstract radiation transfer model for estimating skin temperature from infrared observations. Several possible empirical "tuning" factors are described which can adjust the algorithm to ground truth data. Section 3 presents the data processing algorithm with explicit coefficients and formulas for the absorption due to each molecular species, so that transmittance can be calculated for any temperature and dewpoint profile viewed from geosynchronous station. In Section 4, the algorithm is tested upon the US Standard Atmosphere, and a skin temperature is estimated from a simulated VISSR observation. The sensitivity of this estimate with respect to probable errors in various parameters is computed, and the largest sources of error are identified. The appendix documents a FORTRAN program which is available for use at the Goddard Laboratory for Atmospheric Sciences at NASA/GSFC.

Section 2

RADIATION TRANSFER

2.1 ABSTRACT FORMULATION

Satellite radiance observations in the 11 μm window are used to estimate the skin temperature by adjusting its value in a radiation transfer model until the calculated and observed radiances agree for the colocated satellite, surface, and atmospheric conditions.

(1)

$$R_{\text{obs}} = R_{\text{calc}}(T_{\text{skin}})$$

VISSR radiance observations are available as brightness temperatures, T_{obs} , at an effective wavelength of 11.4 μm (Bauer and Lienesch, 1975).

(2)

$$R_{\text{obs}} = B(\nu_{\text{eff}}, T_{\text{obs}}) \quad \text{erg/etc.}$$

$$\nu_{\text{eff}} = 1/(11.4 \mu\text{m}) = 877.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$$

$$B(\nu, T) = a\nu^3 / [\exp(b\nu/T) - 1]$$

B is radiance, $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1} \text{ sterradian}^{-1} (\text{cm}^{-1})^{-1} = \text{erg/etc.}$

T is temperature, Kelvin (K)

ν is wavenumber, cm^{-1}

$$a = 2hc^2 = 1.1910636 \times 10^{-5}$$

$$b = hc/k = 1.4388318$$

The calculated radiance can be written as a surface term and an atmospheric term, both of which depend upon the transmittance properties of the entire atmosphere integrated over the 10 to 13 μm bandpass. The surface term includes a spectral emittance factor, $e(\nu)$, which can be significantly unpredictable for vegetation at 11 μm .

(3)

$$R_{calc} = R_{sfc}(T_{skin}) + R_{air}$$

$$R_{sfc}(T_{skin}) = \int dv f(v) [e(v) B(v, T_{skin}) t(P_{sfc}, v)]$$

$$R_{air} = \int dv f(v) [dP B(v, T(P)) dt(P, v)/dP]$$

$$f(v) = \text{normalized spectral response, } \int dv f(v) = 1$$

Transmittance, $t(P, v)$, can be considered as the probability of a photon at wavenumber v escaping from level P . Consequently, the total transmittance is the product of the individual transmittances for each type of absorber. Transmittance is calculated from the optical depth, $s(P, v, \text{type})$, which is the integrated effect of all types of absorption, controlled by the pressure, temperature, absorber amount, and viewing angle in the layers between the field-of-view (FOV) and the satellite. An effective transmittance, $\langle t(P) \rangle$, averaged over the spectral response, is not an accurate approximation for most wide band channels.

(4)

$$\langle t(P) \rangle = \int dv f(v) t(P, v)$$

$$t(P, v) = \prod_{\text{type}} t(P, v, \text{type})$$

$$t(P, v, \text{type}) = \exp[-s(P, v, \text{type})]$$

$$s(P, v, \text{type}) = \int_P^0 ds(P', v, \text{type and } T(P'), D(P'), \sec\theta, dP')$$

$\sec\theta$ = airmass = secant of zenith angle from FOV to satellite
 type = H2O continuum, H2O lines, CO2 lines

The differential optical depth, ds , must be computed for each absorbing species at each level in the atmosphere as a function of wavelength. Optical depth is accumulated through the atmosphere and converted to transmittance. Then, the product of the transmittances is substituted into the radiation transfer equations, which are iterated to estimate the underlying skin temperature.

2.2 RADIANCE "TUNING"

Physical retrievals of SST derived from geosynchronous 11 μm window data alone are a few degrees less than ground truth observations (Aoki and Inoue, 1982). Most workers adopt some purely empirical factor to "tune" either their calculations or the infrared observation in order to match ground truth SST. "Tuning" factors may be applied to either the radiance observations, the effective wavenumber, the surface emittance, and/or the atmospheric transmittance.

(5)

$$T^*_{\text{obs}} = T_{\text{obs}} - DT^*$$

$$v'_{\text{eff}} = v_{\text{eff}} + Dv(T_{\text{obs}})$$

$$e'(v) = e(v) - De$$

$$\tau'(P, v) = [\tau(P, v)]^{(1+g)}$$

DT^* , Dv , De , g = possible "tuning" factors

Because the 11 μm channel was originally designed only to make infrared images of cloud locations at night, VISSR calibration is not performed with high absolute accuracy for infrared data from the SMS and GOES satellites launched before 1980. Infrared calibration errors are on the order of ± 3 K in brightness temperature (W. Shenk, private communication), and the channel's spectral response is merely characterized by an effective wavelength of 11.4 μm (Bauer and Lienesch, 1975). The GOES satellites launched after 1980 have an improved radiometer, with 11 μm calibration errors on the order of ± 0.5 K, and the spectral response is well documented (Chesters and Robinson, 1983). Consequently, radiance and wavenumber "tuning" is definitely recommended for VISSR data from the satellites launched before GOES-4.

In the 10 to 13 μm band, the surface emittance, $e(v)$, is approximately constant with wavelength. Values of $e(v)$ from 0.98 to 1.00 are commonly used over bare land and open water, while values as low as 0.90 may apply to vegetation.

Section 3

ESTIMATING TRANSMITTANCE

3.1 DISCRETE COORDINATES

Practical calculations are made on a computer at a discrete set of wavenumbers, ν_k for $k=1, \dots, N_v$, and use atmospheric values averaged between radiosonde measurements at discrete levels, P_i for $i=1, \dots, N_p$.

(6)

$$R_{calc} = R_{sfc}(T_{skin}) + R_{air}$$

$$R_{sfc}(T_{skin}) = \sum_{k=1}^{N_v} f_k [e_k B(\nu_k, T_{skin}) t_{ik}]$$

$$R_{air} = \sum_{k=1}^{N_v} f_k \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} [B(\nu_k, \langle T_i \rangle) Dt_{ik}]$$

$\langle T_i \rangle$ = average temperature between i th and $i+1$ th level
 t_{ik} = transmittance from the i th level for the k th wavenumber
 $Dt_{ik} = t_{i+1,k} - t_{ik}$, for $i < N_p$
 $= 1 - t_{ik}$, for $i = N_p$

satellite data:

f_k = normalized spectral response at k th wavenumber, $\sum f_k = 1$
 ν_k = k th wavenumber, cm^{-1}
 N_v = number of wavenumbers, $k=1, \dots, N_v$
 $SATloc$ = longitude of geosynchronous subsatellite point, $^\circ W$

surface data:

$FOVloc$ = location of FOV, longitude $^\circ W$ and latitude $^\circ N$
 e_k = spectral emittance at k th wavenumber

atmospheric data:

P_i = pressure at the i th level, $P_{i+1} < P_i$ mb
 T_i = temperature at the i th level, $^\circ K$
 D_i = dewpoint at the i th level, $^\circ C$
 N_p = number of radiosonde levels, $i=1, \dots, N_p$
($i=1$ is the surface,
 $i=N_p$ is the top)

3.2 TRANSMITTANCE AND OPTICAL DEPTH

The radiation transfer equation is summed over optically thin layers, $Dt < 0.1$, so that layer averages are valid. Both t and Dt depend upon the overlying atmospheric conditions and upon the zenith angle, θ , from the FOV to the satellite. The differential optical depth, Ds , depends only upon the local properties of the atmosphere -- pressure, temperature, amount of the absorber, and layer thickness as viewed by the satellite. Layer averages are used for the radiosonde values in the layer above level P_j .

(7)

$$\langle t_i \rangle = \sum_{k=1}^{N_v} f_k t_{ik}$$

$$t_{ik} = \prod_{\text{type}} \exp[-s_{ik} \text{ type}]$$

$$s_{ik} \text{ type} = \sum_{j=i}^{N_p} Ds_{jk} \text{ type}$$

$$Ds_{jk} \text{ type} = Ds(\langle P_j \rangle, v_k, \text{type}; \langle T_j \rangle, \langle D_j \rangle, \sec \theta, DP_j)$$

$$\begin{aligned} DP_j &= P_j - P_{j+1} & \text{for } j < N_p, & & = 0.5R & \text{for } j = N_p \\ \langle P_j \rangle &= 0.5[P_j + P_{j+1}] & \text{for } j < N_p, & & = P_j & \text{for } j = N_p \\ \langle T_j \rangle &= 0.5[T_j + T_{j+1}] & \text{for } j < N_p, & & = T_j & \text{for } j = N_p \\ \langle D_j \rangle &= 0.5[D_j + D_{j+1}] & \text{for } j < N_p, & & = D_j & \text{for } j = N_p \end{aligned}$$

3.3 HOMOGENEOUS LAYERS

The effective thickness of a homogeneous layer, DL_j above level j , is the projection of the hydrostatic thickness onto the line-of-sight.

(8)

$$DL_j = DP_j \frac{R0 \text{ Tvirt}(<T_j>, <P_j>, <D_j>)}{<P_j> \text{ mdry } g} \text{ sec}\theta \quad \text{cm}$$

$$\text{Tvirt}(T, P, D) = T / [1 - (1 - \text{mH}_2\text{O}/\text{mdry}) (\text{Psat}(D)/P)] \quad \text{K}$$

$$\text{Psat}(D) = 6.11 \exp[7.5 \ln(10) D / (D + 237.5^\circ\text{C})] \quad \text{mb}$$

$$g = \text{acceleration of gravity at } 45^\circ\text{N} = 980.616 \text{ cm sec}^{-2}$$

$$N0 = \text{Avagadro's constant} = 6.0225 \text{ mole}^{-1}$$

$$R0 = \text{universal gas constant} = kN0 = 8.3143\text{E}7 \text{ erg K}^{-1} \text{ mole}^{-1}$$

$$P0 = 1 \text{ atm} = 1013.6 \text{ mb} = 1.0136\text{E}6 \text{ dyne cm}^{-2}$$

$$m0 = 1 \text{ AMU} = 1.67\text{E}-24 \text{ gm}$$

$$\text{mH}_2\text{O} = \text{mass of water molecule} = 18.0 \text{ AMU}$$

$$\text{mdry} = \text{mass of "dry" air molecule} = 28.9 \text{ AMU}$$

The airmass, $\text{sec}\theta$, for the extra path length viewed through a plane-parallel slab at local zenith angle θ is estimated from the difference between the subsatellite and FOV locations.

(9)

$$\text{sec}\theta = [x^2 - 2xy + 1]^{1/2} / [xy - 1]$$

$$x = R_s/R_e = 6.6134$$

$$y = \sin(a) \cos(b)$$

$$R_e = \text{radius of earth} = 6378 \text{ km}$$

$$R_g = \text{radius of geosynchronous orbit} = 42180 \text{ km}$$

$$a = \text{colatitude of field-of-view from the north pole} \\ = 90^\circ - (\text{FOV latitude } ^\circ\text{N})$$

$$b = \text{longitude difference between FOV and subsatellite point} \\ = (\text{FOV longitude } ^\circ\text{W}) - (\text{satellite longitude } ^\circ\text{W})$$

3.4 FORMULAS FOR MOLECULAR ABSORPTION

3.4.1 Water vapor continuum

Roberts et al. (1976) has parameterized the homogeneous absorption due to the water vapor continuum from data observed from 400 to 1200 cm^{-1} under a variety of field and laboratory conditions. The accuracy of this data when extrapolated to the relatively low temperatures and pressures in the middle and upper troposphere is untested. The most important characteristic about the water vapor continuum absorption is that it is proportional to the square of the water vapor content, so that it dominates molecular absorption at 11 μm in the boundary layer.

(10)

$$Ds_{jk}H20c = C(v_k) C(<T_j>) nH20_j PH20_j DL_j$$

$$C(v_k) = 1.25E-22 + 2.34E-19 \exp(-8.30E-3 v_k) \text{ cm}^2 \text{ atm}^{-1}/\text{molecule}$$

$$C(<T_j>) = \exp[1800 K(1/<T_j> - 1/296 K)]$$

$$nH20_j = (1000 \text{ Psat}(<D_j>)) / (m0 R0 <T_j>) \text{ molecules cm}^{-3}$$

$$PH20_j = \text{Psat}(<D_j>) / 1013.6 \text{ atm}$$

3.4.2 Water vapor lines

Aoki (1980) has parameterized the homogeneous optical depth for the water vapor lines in 50 cm^{-1} intervals from 0 to 2050 cm^{-1} by fitting a semi-random band model to line-by-line simulations for tropospheric conditions. Aoki and Inoue (1982) list special values for the H2O line parameters which were explicitly computed for the 11 μm channel on the Japanese Geosynchronous Weather Satellite (GWS). Both sets of coefficients are listed below; the GWS coefficients are not a simple interpolation or convolution of the spectral coefficients.

(11)

$$Ds_{jkH2O1} = [(C1(v,t)p')^2 + C2(v,t)C3(v,x)]^{1/2} - C1(v,t)p'$$

$$v = v_k$$

$$t = \ln(<T_j>/270 \text{ K})$$

$$p' = \exp[(1-c4(v)) \ln(<P_j>/1013.6)]$$

$$x = \ln[p' PH20_j DL_j]$$

$$PH20_j = Psat(<D_j>)/1013.6 \text{ atm}$$

$$C1(v,t) = c1(v) \exp[c6(v)t]$$

$$C2(v,t) = c2(v) \exp[c7(v)t + c8(v)t^2]$$

$$C3(v,x) = \exp[c3(v)x + c5(v)x^2]$$

$c1(v), \dots, c8(v)$ = interpolations of Aoki's (1980) coefficients

TABLE 1

Coefficients for H2O line absorption near 11 μm

	800 cm^{-1}	850 cm^{-1}	900 cm^{-1}	950 cm^{-1}	1000 cm^{-1}
c1	0.021382	0.025245	0.034435	0.041589	0.031116
c2	0.56845E-5	0.29921E-5	0.14193E-5	0.05885E-5	0.09268E-5
c3	0.96754	0.99808	1.0153	1.1221	1.0320
c4	-0.08635E-2	-0.11122E-2	-0.09704E-2	-0.04544E-2	-0.20808E-2
c5	-0.03411E-2	-0.01399E-2	-0.18391E-2	-0.62568E-2	-0.00879E-2
c6	-0.43471	0.22454	0.35091	0.15582	0.07572
c7	8.7939	9.5119	10.7720	10.2056	10.3424
c8	-0.87402	-1.66808	-1.81940	-1.20720	-2.09283
	GWS channel				
c1	0.0276185				
c2	0.191647E-5				
c3	1.02476				
c4	-5.47816E-2				
c5	-0.07084E-2				
c6	0.665602				
c7	9.71290				
c8	-1.56049				

3.4.3 Carbon dioxide lines

Aoki (1980) has parameterized the homogeneous optical depth for the carbon dioxide lines in 50 cm^{-1} intervals from 500 to 1050 cm^{-1} by fitting a semi-random band model to line-by-line simulations for tropospheric conditions.

(12)

$$Ds_{jk}CO2l = [(C1(v,t)p')^2 + C2(v,t)C3(v,x)]^{1/2} - C1(v,t)p'$$

$$v = v_k$$

$$t = \ln(<T_j>/270 \text{ K})$$

$$p' = \exp[(1-c4(v)) \ln(<P_j>/1013.6)]$$

$$x = \ln[p' PCO2_j DL_j]$$

$$PCO2_j = 330.0E-6 <P_j>/1013.6 \quad \text{atm}$$

$$C1(v,t) = c1(v) \exp[c6(v)t]$$

$$C2(v,t) = c2(v) \exp[c7(v)t + c8(v)t^2]$$

$$C3(v,x) = \exp[c3(v)x + c5(v)x^2]$$

$c1(v), \dots, c8(v)$ = interpolations of Aoki's (1980) coefficients

TABLE 2

Coefficients for CO₂ line absorption near $11 \mu\text{m}$

	800cm^{-1}	850cm^{-1}	900cm^{-1}	950cm^{-1}	1000cm^{-1}
c1	0.18465	0.60353	0.30581	0.13287	0.14893
c2	0.76362E-5	0.33103E-5	1.4291E-5	0.56096E-5	0.95598E-5
c3	1.2516	0.98463	1.1318	1.3890	1.1242
c4	-0.063233	-0.000349	-0.047875	-0.021649	-0.020353
c5	-0.017441	-0.0002027	-0.0065872	-0.020444	-0.0080091
c6	0.93946	0.04220	0.52813	0.22125	0.55908
c7	10.02969	13.33342	11.61556	9.78332	9.72914
c8	-1.28317	-4.23887	-2.83714	-1.25705	-1.58241

Aoki (1980) finds good agreement between his parameterized transmittances and exact line-by-line calculations, except for the CO₂ Q-branch between 800 and 850 cm^{-1} . One can indeed see irregular behavior in all of the coefficients from 800 to 900 cm^{-1} in the above table. The parameterized CO₂ transmittances are systematically too transparent at these wavelengths. Fortunately, the CO₂ line absorption in the $11 \mu\text{m}$ window is weak enough for these errors to be relatively unimportant for application to VISSR observations.

3.5 SPECTRAL RESPONSE FUNCTION FOR THE 11 μm WINDOW

Each geosynchronous satellite has a different spectral response within the broad window centered near 11 μm . In general, response is designed to be small at 13 μm (800 cm^{-1}) in order to avoid the 15 μm carbon dioxide band, and also small at 10 μm (1000 cm^{-1}) in order to avoid the 9.6 μm ozone band. Absorption by the water vapor continuum dominates the 11 μm window, especially at the longwave end. The spectral response curve for the 11 μm window on GOES-4 is listed below, drawn at 20 cm^{-1} intervals from a more detailed tabulation (Chesters and Robinson, 1983).

TABLE 3

Spectral response for the 11 μm window on GOES-4

ν , cm^{-1}	$f(\nu)$
800	0.01
820	0.40
840	0.67
860	0.96
880	0.99
900	0.94
920	0.86
940	0.83
960	0.77
980	0.15
1000	0.01

Section 4

SAMPLE VALUES

4.1 TRANSMITTANCE AND SKIN TEMPERATURE

Response-averaged transmittances, $\langle t(P) \rangle = \int f(v) t(P, v) dv$, are listed below for the GOES-4 11 μm window, simulating a FOV at 40°N and 90°W with GOES-EAST at 75°W, viewed through the US Standard Atmosphere at the appropriate angle. Fully one-quarter of the photons from the surface are absorbed by this relatively dry atmosphere in the 11 μm "window" channel. Within the 11 μm bandpass, the transmittance spectrum varies considerably from $t=0.83$ at 1000 cm^{-1} to $t=0.65$ at 800 cm^{-1} . Transmittance values for each species are listed in Appendix A; they demonstrate that most of the absorption is due to the water vapor continuum. A skin temperature of 290.56 K is retrieved for this case, if the emittance is 0.99 and the observed brightness is 285 K.

TABLE 4

Transmittance estimates for the US Standard Atmosphere

i	P mb	T K	D °C	$\langle t(P) \rangle$ H2O cont.	$\langle t(P) \rangle$ H2O lines	$\langle t(P) \rangle$ CO2 lines	$\langle t(P) \rangle$ total
8	100	217	-82	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
7	200	217	-66	1.000	1.000	0.999	0.999
6	300	229	-49	1.000	0.999	0.999	0.999
5	400	241	-35	0.999	0.999	0.999	0.999
4	500	252	-24	0.998	0.998	0.999	0.995
3	700	269	-8	0.978	0.992	0.997	0.968
2	850	279	0	0.925	0.976	0.995	0.898
1	1000	287	7	0.826	0.947	0.992	0.776
Calculated for $\sec\theta = 1.52$ and $f(v) = \text{GOES-4 } 11 \mu\text{m window}$. If $e(v) = 0.99$ and $T_{\text{obs}} = 285.00 \text{ K}$, then $T_{\text{skin}} = 290.56 \text{ K}$.							

4.2 SENSITIVITY TO ERRORS

The values for the above simulation were computed using the computer program listed in the appendix. By rerunning the program with key parameters slightly changed, the sensitivity of the skin temperature estimate to normal uncertainties in the data is determined.

TABLE 5

Sensitivity of skin temperature to typical uncertainties

parameter	change	DT _{skin}
e(v)	+0.01	-0.64 °C
T* _{obs}	+1.0 K	+1.29 °C
v _{eff}	+10 cm ⁻¹	-1.39 °C
f(v)	$\delta(v-v_{eff})$	-2.62 °C
v _{eff}	$\langle v \rangle = \int v f(v) dv$	-2.74 °C
D(P)	+1.0 °C	+0.49 °C
T(P)	+1.0 K	-0.30 °C
P	+1%	+0.01 °C
s(P,v)	+10%	+0.38 °C
D _{s_{jk}} H ₂ O lines	GWS coeff.	+0.21 °C
t(P,v)	$\langle t(P) \rangle$	-0.95 °C

The algorithm is more sensitive to uncertainties in the satellite values than in the atmospheric profile or the transmittance model. The largest errors arise from uncertainties in calibration and spectral response. For instance, the expected ± 3 K absolute calibration errors in VISSR data translate into $\pm 4^\circ\text{C}$ errors in skin temperature, and uncertainties in the assignment of an effective wavelength translate into 1° to 3°C biases, depending upon the spectral characterization selected. Uncertainties in the radiosonde data or absorption coefficients translate into smaller errors in skin temperature, less than $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

Section 5

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Appendix A

A COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE 11 μm WINDOW

This appendix lists the FORTRAN code which was used to make the skin temperature retrieval and the estimates of sensitivity to parametric uncertainties described in Section 4. Variables are named to resemble the algebra in Section 3. The code is written in FORTRAN 66 for transportability, and functions are modularized for easy modification. Output from a sample run is listed, for comparison.

In order to apply the code to other conditions, the user must introduce satellite data in subroutine GETSAT, surface conditions in GETSFC, and atmospheric conditions in GETATM. The default conditions are for GOES-EAST at 75°W using the GOES-4 11 μm filter to observe a typical brightness temperature of 285 K from a 99% emitting surface in Illinois, which is initially estimated to be 290 K (skin) temperature, viewed through the US Standard temperature (K) and dewpoint depression (K) profile at the mandatory pressure levels from 1000 to 100 mb. After the atmospheric transmittance spectrum is calculated for continuum and line absorption, Newtonian iteration of the radiation transfer equation is employed over the 11 μm filter (specified at 20 cm^{-1} intervals), adjusting the skin temperature until the calculated radiance equals the observed radiance, at 290.56 K. The program is available for use on the SACC, NHSCF and VAP computers utilized by the Goddard Laboratory for Atmospheric Sciences at NASA/GSFC.

A.1 THE FORTRAN CODE

```
CCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC
C
C AOKI AND ROBERTS TRANSMITTANCE FOR THE VISSR 11 MICRON WINDOW
C DENNIS CHESTERS/NASA/GSFC/915--09MAY84
C
CCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC
COMMON /LOOPS/ NV,NP, ICASE, NCASE
COMMON /SATEL/ VEFF, TOBS, SATLOC (2) , F (42) , V (42)
COMMON /ATMOS/ P (40) , T (40) , D (40) .
& DP (40) , PP (40) , TT (40) , DD (40) , DL (40)
COMMON /SITE / FOVLOC (2) , E, TSKIN
COMMON /TRANS/ SECANT, TAU (40, 42, 4)
COMMON /RADS / ROBS, RAIR, RSFC, RCALC, TCALC
NCASE=1
DO 100 ICASE=1, NCASE
CALL GETSAT
CALL GETSFC
CALL AIRMAS
CALL GETATM
CALL MAKTAU
CALL RXFER
CALL SKINIT
CALL REPORT
100 CONTINUE
STOP
END
```


CC

SUBROUTINE AIRMAS

COMMON /LOOPS/ NV,NP, ICASE, NCASE

COMMON /SATEL/ VEFF, TOBS, SATLOC (2), F (42), V (42)

COMMON /SITE / FOVLOC (2), E, TSKIN

COMMON /TRANS/ SECANT, TAU (40, 42, 4)

A=90.0-FOVLOC (2)

B=FOVLOC (1)-SATLOC (1)

X=42180./6378.

PI=3.141592653

Y=SIN (PI*A/180.)*COS (PI*B/180.)

SECANT=SQRT (X**2-2.*X*Y+1.)/(X*Y-1.)

RETURN

END

DATA C4/- .91454E-2, -.98319E-2, -.44953E-2, -.14185E-1, -.46059E-2,
 & -.15621E-1, -.25494E-1, -.47444E-2, -.15901E-1, -.69590E-2,
 & -.11820E-1, -.13635E-1, -.29322E-2, -.13961E-2, -.14661E-2,
 & -.11491E-2, -.86349E-3, -.11122E-2, -.97038E-3, -.45444E-3,
 & -.20808E-2, -.64715E-2, -.28998E-1, -.99276E-2, -.66671E-2,
 & -.30364E-1, -.52805E-1, -.40833E-1, -.43125E-1, -.40016E-1,
 & -.25563E-1, -.33621E-1, -.22112E-1, -.21701E-1, -.15822E-1,
 & -.20913E-1, -.20071E-1, -.23985E-1, -.18801E-1, -.28728E-1,
 & -.33485E-1, -.42419E-1/
 DATA C5/- .37839E-1, -.17290E-2, -.20660E-2, -.10511E-3, -.16759E-1,
 & -.15908E-3, -.13413E-3, -.40980E-2, -.14633E-3, -.87257E-4,
 & -.30110E-3, -.15225E-3, -.65968E-3, -.29567E-3, -.14027E-3,
 & -.34657E-2, -.34111E-3, -.13990E-3, -.18391E-2, -.62568E-2,
 & -.87926E-4, -.97954E-4, -.14919E-3, -.65263E-3, -.10428E-2,
 & -.25773E-3, -.83324E-2, -.27798E-2, -.16955E-3, -.66676E-3,
 & -.71190E-3, -.18466E-1, -.24837E-3, -.14121E-3, -.15256E-3,
 & -.14590E-3, -.10532E-3, -.14246E-3, -.19701E-3, -.15485E-3,
 & -.14375E-3, -.15296E-3/
 DATA C6/- .17136, -.04406, .25395, .40202, .12155,
 & .65488, .72494, .14525, .29936, .19062,
 & .29378, 1.43326, .50286, .28133, .25011,
 & .24613, -.43471, .22454, .35091, .15582,
 & .07572, -.03850, .49841, .21488, .21833,
 & -.49067, -1.17866, -.41061, .15930, .69690,
 & .39747, .37997, .49863, .28927, .34280,
 & .63085, .34498, 1.41368, .74723, 1.48141,
 & 1.36339, 2.09282/
 DATA C7/1.0643, 2.5126, 3.1319, 4.0704, 3.5912,
 & 4.9048, 5.4988, 5.6218, 7.0913, 7.4134,
 & 7.2168, 7.7716, 8.0488, 7.8089, 8.4474,
 & 8.2915, 8.7939, 9.5119, 10.7720, 10.2056,
 & 10.3424, 10.0839, 9.2890, 7.3673, 7.1788,
 & 7.0972, 5.6239, 5.2652, 4.6582, 3.4433,
 & 3.4458, 1.9749, 1.9530, 2.3889, 3.2042,
 & 4.0455, 4.3753, 4.5972, 4.8526, 5.6121,
 & 6.8722, 8.2266/
 DATA C8/- .19040, -.24306, -.27868, -.41036, -.37553,
 & -.50397, -.56753, -.63833, -.75103, -.27426,
 & -.46691, -.84266, -1.42339, -.172181, -1.19561,
 & -.96755, -.87402, -1.66808, -1.81940, -1.20720,
 & -2.09283, -2.67175, -.96213, -.97576, -.26443,
 & -.45219, -.60283, -.57719, -.47750, -.36057,
 & -.35798, -.20712, -.20529, -.24958, -.32391,
 & -.41384, -.30872, -.55061, -.48158, -.59724,
 & -.84702, -.93563/
 DATA GWS /0.0276185, 0.191647E-5, 1.02476, -5.47816E-2,
 & -0.07084E-2, 0.665602, 9.71290, -1.56049/

```

C INTERPOLATE TO EACHWAVNUMBER WITH MODULUS ARITHMETIC (BASE 0, STEP 50)
  DO 100 K=1,NV
    IF (V(K).LE.-00.1 .OR. V(K).GE.2050.1) GO TO 100
    INTV=V(K)
    MODV=1+((INTV-000)/50)
    DELV=(V(K)-000)-(MODV-1)*50
    FRACT=DELV/50.
    DO 110 IC=1,8
      CV(IC)=(1.-FRACT)*C(MODV,IC) + FRACT*C(MODV+1,IC)
C --- CV(IC)=GWS(IC)
  110 CONTINUE
    S=0.0
    DO 200 I=1,NP
      J=NP-I+1
      TJ=ALOG(TT(J)/270.)
      PJ=(PP(J)/1013.6)**(1.-CV(4))
      PSATD=6.11*10.** (7.5*DD(J)/(DD(J)+237.5))
      XJ=ALOG(PJ*(PSATD/1013.6)*DL(J))
      C1VT=CV(1)*EXP(CV(6)*TJ)
      C2VT=CV(2)*EXP(CV(7)*TJ + CV(8)*TJ**2)
      C3VX=      EXP(CV(3)*XJ + CV(5)*XJ**2)
      DS=SQRT((C1VT*PJ)**2 + C2VT*C3VX) - C1VT*PJ
      S=S+DS
      TAU(J,K,3)=EXP(-S)
  200 CONTINUE
  100 CONTINUE
    RETURN
  END

```



```

C INTERPOLATE TO EACHWAVNUMBER WITH MODULUS ARITHMETIC (BASE 500 STEP 50
  DO 100 K=1,NV
    IF (V(K) .LE. 499.9 .OR. V(K) .GE. 1050.1) GO TO 100
    INTV=V(K)
    MODV=1+((INTV-500)/50)
    DELV=(V(K)-500)-(MODV-1)*50
    FRACT=DELV/50.
    DO 110 IC=1,8
110  CV(IC)=(1.-FRACT)*C(MODV,IC) + FRACT*C(MODV+1,IC)
    S=0.0
    DO 200 I=1,NP
      J=NP-I+1
      TJ=ALOG(TT(J)/270.)
      PJ=(PP(J)/1013.6)**(1.-CV(4))
      PC02=330.E-6*PP(J)
      XJ=ALOG(PJ*(PC02/1013.6)*DL(J))
      C1VT=CV(1)*EXP(CV(6)*TJ)
      C2VT=CV(2)*EXP(CV(7)*TJ + CV(8)*TJ**2)
      C3VX=      EXP(CV(3)*XJ + CV(5)*XJ**2)
      DS=SQRT((C1VT*PJ)**2 + C2VT*C3VX) - C1VT*PJ
      S=S+DS
      TAU(J,K,4)=EXP(-S)
200  CONTINUE
100  CONTINUE
    RETURN
  END

```

```

CCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC
SUBROUTINE RXFER
COMMON /LOOPS/ NV,NP,ICASE,NCASE
COMMON /SATEL/ VEFF,TOBS,SATLOC(2),F(42),V(42)
COMMON /ATMOS/ P(40),T(40),D(40),
& DP(40),PP(40),TT(40),DD(40),DL(40)
COMMON /SITE / FOVLOC(2),E,TSKIN
COMMON /TRANS/ SECANT,TAU(40,42,4)
COMMON /RADS / ROBS,RAIR,RSFC,RCALC,TCALC
C LOCAL PLANCK FUNCTION AND INVERSE BRIGHTNESS TEMPERATURE
B(V,T)=1.1910636E-5*(V**3)/(EXP(1.4388318*V/T)-1.0)
TB(V,R)=1.4388318*V/ALOG(1.0+1.1910636E-5*(V**3)/R)
C CONVERT VAS OBS
ROBS=B(VEFF,TOBS)
C INTEGRATE ATMOSPHERE
RAIR=0.0
DO 100 K=1,NV
RV=0.0
DO 110 I=1,NP
IF(I.LT.NP) DRV=B(V(K),TT(I))*(TAU(I+1,K,1)-TAU(I,K,1))
IF(I.EQ.NP) DRV=B(V(K),TT(I))*(1.0-TAU(I,K,1))
RV=RV+DRV
110 CONTINUE
RAIR=RAIR+F(K)*RV
100 CONTINUE
C SURFACE AND TOTAL RADIANCES
RSFC=0.0
DO 200 K=1,NV
RSFC=RSFC+F(K)*E*B(V(K),TSKIN)*TAU(1,K,1)
200 CONTINUE
RCALC=RSFC+RAIR
TCALC=TB(VEFF,RCALC)
RETURN
END

```


SUBROUTINE REPORT

C

```

      WRITE (6,9999)
9999  FORMAT('1')
      DO 300 ITYPE=1,4
      WRITE (6,4440) ITYPE, (K,K=1,NV)
4440  FORMAT(' TRANSMITTANCE OF TYPE = ',13/6X,'K = ',2015/(10X,2015))
      WRITE (6,4442) (V(K),K=1,NV)
4442  FORMAT(3X,'V(K) = ',20F5.0/(10X,20F5.0))
      WRITE (6,4443)
4443  FORMAT(' J', ' P(J) ')
C
      DO 400 I=1,NP
      J=NP-I+1
      WRITE (6,4444) J,P(J), (TAU(J,K,ITYPE),K=1,NV)
4444  FORMAT(13,F6.0,1X,20F5.2/(10X,20F5.2))
      400 CONTINUE
C
      300 CONTINUE
C
      RETURN
      END

```

A.2 SAMPLE OUTPUT

RESULTS FOR CASE = 1 OF 1 CASES.

TSKIN = 290.56
 TOBS = 285.00
 TCALC = 285.00
 VEFF = 877.19
 E = 0.99
 SECANT = 1.52
 SATLOC = 75.00 0.0
 FOVLOC = 90.00 40.00
 ROBS = 97.08
 RCALC = 97.08
 RAIR = 18.65
 RSFC = 78.43

J	P(J) MB	T(J) K	D(J) C	TAU(J) TOTAL TYPE = 1	TAU(J) H2O CONT TYPE = 2	TAU(J) H2O LINE TYPE = 3	TAU(J) CO2 LINE TYPE = 4
8	100.0	217.0	-82.0	0.9999	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
7	200.0	217.0	-66.0	0.9999	1.0000	1.0000	0.9999
6	300.0	229.0	-49.0	0.9997	1.0000	1.0000	0.9998
5	400.0	241.0	-35.0	0.9991	0.9997	0.9998	0.9996
4	500.0	252.0	-24.0	0.9960	0.9979	0.9988	0.9992
3	700.0	269.0	-8.0	0.9675	0.9780	0.9917	0.9976
2	850.0	279.0	0.0	0.8980	0.9248	0.9755	0.9954
1	1000.0	287.0	7.0	0.7759	0.8257	0.9469	0.9922

SPECTRAL RESPONSE AT 11 WAVENUMBERS

K	V(K)	F(K)
1	800.0	0.0015
2	820.0	0.0607
3	840.0	0.1017
4	860.0	0.1457
5	880.0	0.1502
6	900.0	0.1426
7	920.0	0.1305
8	940.0	0.1259
9	960.0	0.1168
10	980.0	0.0228
11	1000.0	0.0015

TRANSMITTANCE OF TYPE = 1

K =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
V(K) =	800.	820.	840.	860.	880.	900.	920.	940.	960.	980.	1000.
J P(J)											
8 100.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7 200.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6 300.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5 400.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4 500.	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3 700.	0.94	0.95	0.96	0.96	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.98
2 850.	0.83	0.85	0.87	0.89	0.90	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.92	0.92
1 1000.	0.65	0.69	0.72	0.75	0.78	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.82	0.83

TRANSMITTANCE OF TYPE = 2

K =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
V(K) =	800.	820.	840.	860.	880.	900.	920.	940.	960.	980.	1000.
J P(J)											
8 100.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7 200.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6 300.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5 400.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4 500.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3 700.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99
2 850.	0.88	0.89	0.91	0.91	0.92	0.93	0.93	0.94	0.94	0.95	0.95
1 1000.	0.74	0.76	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.83	0.84	0.86	0.86	0.87	0.88

TRANSMITTANCE OF TYPE = 3

K =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
V(K) =	800.	820.	840.	860.	880.	900.	920.	940.	960.	980.	1000.
J P(J)											
8 100.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7 200.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6 300.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5 400.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4 500.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3 700.	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.99	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99
2 850.	0.95	0.95	0.96	0.97	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98
1 1000.	0.90	0.91	0.92	0.94	0.95	0.97	0.96	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.96

TRANSMITTANCE OF TYPE = 4

K =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
V(K) =	800.	820.	840.	860.	880.	900.	920.	940.	960.	980.	1000.
J P(J)											
8 100.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7 200.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6 300.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5 400.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4 500.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3 700.	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	1.00	1.00
2 850.	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99
1 1000.	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	0.99

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET

1. Report No. TM-86105	2. Government Accession No.	3. Recipient's Catalog No.	
4. Title and Subtitle Calculations of Atmospheric Transmittance in the 11 μ M Window for Estimating Skin Temperature from VISSR Infrared Brightness Temperatures		5. Report Date May 4, 1984	
		6. Performing Organization Code 915	
7. Author(s) Dennis Chesters		8. Performing Organization Report No.	
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Goddard Space Flight Center Greenbelt, Maryland 20771		10. Work Unit No.	
		11. Contract or Grant No.	
12. Sponsoring Agency Name and Address National Aeronautics and Space Administration Washington, D.C. 20546		13. Type of Report and Period Covered	
		14. Sponsoring Agency Code	
15. Supplementary Notes			
16. Abstract An algorithm is presented for calculating the atmospheric transmittance in the 10 to 20 μ m spectral band from a known temperature and dewpoint profile, and then using this transmittance to estimate the surface (skin) temperature from a VISSR observation in the 11 μ m window. Parameterizations are drawn from the literature for computing the molecular absorption due to the water vapor continuum, water vapor lines, and carbon dioxide lines. FORTRAN code is documented for this application, and the sensitivity of the derived skin temperature to variations in the model's parameters is calculated. VISSR calibration uncertainties are identified as the largest potential source of error.			
17. Key Words (Selected by Author(s)) Transmittance Water Vapor VISSR		18. Distribution Statement	
19. Security Classif. (of this report)	20. Security Classif. (of this page)	21. No. of Pages 35	22. Price*